

# THE TRIBUNE'S FOREIGN NEWS

## POOR NAVY THE THEME OF ENGLISH EDITORS

Writers Quake at Thought That Superiority in Ships Is Only Two to One.

### REMINDER FROM CANADA

Sir W. Laurier Surprises Them by Showing That Colonial Dominions Are Allies, Not Fendal Retainers.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—The strength of the navy, or, rather, what seems to be generally considered the weakness of the navy, continues to occupy the principal place in the thoughts of English newspaper editors, but the counter proposals of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa have caused a considerable diminution in the ebullition of joy over the proposed Canadian contributions. In the first enthusiasm over Premier Borden's proposals the policy adopted by Australia and New Zealand in contributing to the naval strength of the empire was lost sight of, and it was immediately presumed that Mr. Borden's announcement meant that the colonies of England were prepared to reduce themselves to a state of vassalage instead of participating in an autonomous alliance, and the English papers welcome this as though it were the result of a great outburst of patriotic enthusiasm from the empire.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier has now brought them again to see that the great self-governing colonies are in reality allies and not fendal retainers, and that it is not their purpose to be drawn against their will into quarrels of which they do not approve or be used as bogey men to frighten England's rivals.

This is the sad fact that English editors had to face once more, since Sir Wilfrid plainly announced the policy of Canadian Liberals to keep Canadian ships in Canadian waters and pointed out the lack of disposition in Canada to be dragged into quarrels which Canada had no part in making and from the outcome of which she cannot gain anything. Sir Wilfrid represents a very large section of Canadian thought, and it was by no means on the question of imperialism that Robert L. Borden was brought to power by his far from large majority.

It is well worth noting and a fact of great interest in the present situation that denizens of Fleet Street are much more exercised over the condition of the British navy than any one else in England, and when the attitude of Fleet Street is considered it is well that this should be so. It would be indeed an unfortunate and sorrowful state of affairs if the entire nation adopted the sentiment of Fleet Street, for seldom has there been a sadder sight than English newspapers at present, with their daily lamentations of the fact that the English might have to go to war with no greater naval superiority over a possible enemy than two to one. It is hard to believe that the average Englishman is so weak of heart as to demand this overwhelming superiority. It is well enough and proper enough to want and to insist upon proper preparation for possible eventualities, but it is certainly not fitting to see this constant shaking at the knees and to hear this daily repeated fear.

As a matter of fact, rather extensive inquiries as to the effect of these columns of print on the average Englishman and investigations of the spirit of the man in the street have brought almost the universal reply of: "We don't read that stuff. It pleases them to write it, so let them write it."

## ADMIRALTY FRICTION

### Question of Veracity Between Churchill and Bridgeman.

London, Dec. 14.—When Winston Spencer Churchill took control of the Admiralty as First Lord there was much speculation as to how a minister of his enterprising and pugnacious temperament would work with the Sea Lords, who have been accustomed to dominate in professional matters. The resignation of the First Sea Lord, Vice-Admiral Sir Francis C. Bridgeman-Bridgeman, whom Prince Louis of Battenberg succeeds, is followed by rumors that all the Sea Lords have threatened to resign now.

The question of veracity between the First Lord of the Admiralty and Vice-Admiral Bridgeman which has arisen has created a sensation. Mr. Churchill, pressed by Lord Charles Bessborough in the House of Commons for an explanation, declared that Vice-Admiral Bridgeman's resignation was due solely to his health and on Mr. Churchill's request.

The Vice-Admiral, asked by a reporter if he had retired on account of his health, replied: "My answer is in the negative."

The friction is believed to have been begun by Mr. Churchill insisting upon directing the details of the last maneuvers, against the advice of the Sea Lords. There is considerable opposition to Prince Louis of Battenberg holding the highest position in the navy, on the same ground that the army long opposed the Duke of Cambridge, that it was given to him because he was a member of the royal family instead of for professional competency.

The First Lord of the Admiralty and the leading admirals unquestionably are antagonistic. Some Liberals even express fear that the efficiency of the navy may be jeopardized on this account.

## KROONLAND COULDN'T LAND

Dover, England, Dec. 14.—The Red Star steamship Kroonland was unable to land her passengers here to-day owing to the gale. She left New York on December 4 and should have called here, but the captain decided in consequence of the roughness of the sea to proceed direct to Antwerp.

## BIG SCHEME OF SWINDLE EXPOSED IN LONDON

Simple Scheme by Which Bookmakers Were Robbed Unsuspectingly of Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—Details have just come to light showing that English bookmakers during the last racing season have been defrauded of hundreds of thousands of dollars by an ingenious use of the telephone. The scheme adopted depended for its success on the fact that in country places telegraphic messages are received at shops or small business establishments, and are forwarded by telephone to the nearest postoffice.

A few minutes before the time set for a race a man would enter one of these shops and take possession of the telephone for a trunk call, paying for a quarter of an hour's conversation, or more, if necessary. He would be followed by another man, who would write out several telegrams to various bookmakers, backing horses and writing the name of a different horse on every form. Having got the messages stamped with a time stamp by the clerk, showing that they were handed in before the time set for the race, he waits to see them dispatched. The man in the telephone box remains there until he has received from a confederate information as to the result of the race, and in leaving he communicates this by sign to the sender of the telegrams, who asks indignantly why his messages have not been sent.

"Very sorry, sir," says the clerk, generally a simple country girl, "but the telephone has been engaged."

"It is too late now," he replies angrily, and demands the return of his forms, already stamped, it must be remembered.

"This one can go," he adds, handing back the message on which the winner's name appears, and he destroys the others.

The very simplicity of the scheme made it successful until it was discovered by a bookmaker, whose surprise at the consistent winnings of one of his clients led him to make investigations. It did not entail making any correction of the original message, and there was no trace of irregularity. In each case the telegram with the name of the winning horse on it was received by the bookmaker, duly timed some minutes before the race, and he tied it among his bets to be paid, entirely unsuspecting of the fact that he had been swindled. It is proof of the very considerable winnings of the bookmakers that this swindle, though fairly widespread, left few if any of the bigger of the fraternity with a balance on the wrong side of their books at the end of the season.

tride value of the article, and the margin of profit must be enormous.

"It seems most unreasonable," says the writer, "that the person who prefers for perfectly good reasons to shirk his thirst with something that is non-alcoholic should be forced for his pains. Temperance reformers would assist their cause very materially if they would give serious attention to this question of the price of these beverages which are only special because they are non-alcoholic."

## DRINK JUST THE SAME

British Blue Book Shows More Drunkenness—Fewer Saloons.

### CONVICTIONS ARE GROWING

#### Study Made of Effects of Partial Closing and Phenomenally Hot Weather on Drinking Habit.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—A really commendable spirit of enterprise marks the compilation of the government's latest Blue Book dealing with licensing statistics of 1911. How the partial closing of the saloons in the North of England during the strike rioting in August and how the phenomenal spell of hot weather affected the drinking capacity of the people are among the interesting topics which receive exhaustive attention.

But, first, this formidable mass of statistics tells you that between 1905 and 1911, inclusive, the total number of licensed saloons in England had been reduced by 9,564, and yet, in spite of this "decrease in opportunity," the total number of convictions for drunkenness show an increase over the previous year. The actual number of convictions jumped from 161,802 in 1910 to 171,130 in 1911. London's total alone increased from 48,447 to 55,130.

Dealing with the effect of the compulsory closing of public houses in Liverpool during the riots the Blue Book says:

It is the first opportunity which has occurred of relieving with the aid of statistics the effects of the closing on a considerable scale of licensed premises during a great part of the day. There is no doubt that the closing which occurred was most salutary and helpful to the police. The conviction figures of public order, is it possible to go further and trace any connection between the closing of licensed premises and the amount of drunkenness? The figures of arrests for drunkenness afford the only means of answering the question. In Liverpool, where the closing was under consideration, it is not to be supposed that Liverpool is, in fact, more than three times, and Birkenhead nearly three times as drunken as Boston. In Liverpool, the convictions for drunkenness were, for the year 1911, 152.97 per 10,000 persons; in Birkenhead, 121.11; in Boston all licensed houses were closed early—at 5 p. m. on the 17th, August, and subsequently at 2 p. m. on the 19th, August, and against 222 in the corresponding period of 1910, and in Birkenhead 11, as against 43.

The conclusion is that the Liverpool figures, interesting as they are, afford no exception to the general rule that it is unsafe to attribute any change in the number of proceedings for drunkenness to any single or simple cause.

On the question of how the weather comes into calculation in estimating the possible "drink bill" of a nation the inquiry which the report undertook was disappointing. It states:

The exceptional weather of 1911 seemed to afford an unprecedented opportunity of gauging the effects of temperature upon drunkenness, so far as represented by convictions, and a table of monthly figures was drawn up for the purpose of comparison on this point. The fluctuations of these figures are at least as easily correlated with labor crises as with various holiday influences.

If the theory is that heat and sunshine increase the inclination to consume intoxicating liquor, and therefore the chances of drunkenness, July and August, 1911, should show exceptionally high figures for the whole country are merely normal, according to the average for the previous three years, and even in London, where they are higher than the average, they are not so much higher than those for several other months. For August there is a sharp decline in the figures in all parts of the country.

But there are apparently other and more simple things which "drive a man to drink" in England. One of them is probably the excessive charges made for temperance drinks, and, commenting upon this, the authoritative medical journal, "The Lancet," says:

A pint of bitter beer costs the consumer in most cases considerably less than a smaller draft of lemon squash. We have known a man who, when offered a glass of even more charged for this, one of the best non-alcoholic beverages, and 12 cents may be asked for a glass of ginger beer or ginger ale if the circumstances of the sale seem to warrant the charge. This charge is out of all proportion to the in-

## ASQUITH MEN HEARTENED IN THE LONDON THEATRES

With Home Rule Through Committee, Liberals Look Ahead.

### LAND LAW REFORM NEXT

Insurance Act Not the Success Anticipated, and Day of Disbursements Is Near.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—The government this week brought the Home Rule bill successfully over its committee stage in the House of Commons. After the shock of reversal on the financial amendment the governmental majority has been mustered with clockwork regularity and has done its work so well that the government's supporters are now prophesying that the Liberals, far from being close to their last gasp, will continue in power for at least another two years, and certainly they are not at present acting like men who had reached the end of their time.

On the contrary, the talk of land reform heard so persistently in the early fall is being revived, and it is now stated that Mr. Lloyd George will begin his campaign in the matter soon after the first of the year. There is still no announcement of details as to what he proposes, and it still seems to be a fact that even his colleagues in the government have only the vaguest ideas as to what his policy consists of. There is, indeed, some doubt as to whether he himself has more than a shadowy idea of what he intends to do.

In a general way he believes that the large owners of land should bear the principal share of the cost of government or else that the land should go back again to the people. In any case, it seems to be his idea that the principal cost of government should fall on land, and there is every evidence that, whatever the Conservatives may try to do about making tariff reform the issue, the Liberal party intends the next campaign to be a land campaign.

The insurance act, upon which the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the government built such splendid hopes, seems no nearer than ever it was to realizing its pictured glories, though something like \$90,000,000 has been paid into the Treasury for the privilege of licking stamps, and in little more than a month the benefits are ostensibly to accrue.

As a matter of fact, the doctors are still practically unanimous against working under the act. Balloting on the question has been going on all the week, and of the fifty-eight sections of the British Medical Association that so far have reported only one has voted in favor of the government. While two have adopted the waiting policy and fifty-five have refused the government's offer.

Doctors, moreover, are not the only critics of the act. Speaking at Liverpool this week Sir James Barr said that the insurance act would eventually cost \$150,000,000, the price of fifteen Dreadnoughts, which would save the life of the nation, whereas the act would not save the life of a single individual.

It is suggested that a new silver coin, an eightpenny piece, should be added to the English coinage. The insurance act has added much labor to the payment of wages in large concerns. By the deduction of fourpence from each man's wages for the insurance stamp the amount each man gets, instead of being in even shillings or pounds, becomes so much "and eightpence." Wage paying then, which used to be a simple matter, has become a long and tedious job, involving the handling of thousands of odd copers, of which there is not always a sufficiency for convenience. To remove the inconvenience the new coin is suggested.

## TO TELL US ABOUT FRANCE

### Andre de Fougquieres Sails for Lecture Tour Here.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
Paris, Dec. 14.—Among the passengers on La Provence, sailing from Havre for New York to-day, is Andre de Fougquieres, who is to make a six weeks' lecturing tour in the United States, dealing with France from the artistic, literary, heroic and social points of view.

M. de Fougquieres, who is an erudite man of letters, has had great success as a sportsman in India and Europe and is a most brilliant leader of cotillions at smart Parisian dances. He is accompanied by two photographic operators with five thousand plates in colors.

## WON'T ACT FOR MORMONS

### American Embassy at London Finds No Discrimination.

London, Dec. 14.—The American Embassy has taken no action in regard to the request of the Mormon missionaries for intervention on their behalf with the authorities of Spain, where police protection had been refused for a meeting arranged for to-morrow.

The matter was not considered one in which the embassy could interfere, as no formal complaint was made and there was nothing to show that the police had acted differently toward the Mormon missionaries than they would have done toward British subjects in a similar situation.

## EXILED MONK UNFROCKED.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 14.—The monk He-Rodorus, who was exiled at the end of January by the Emperor Nicholas and whose stubborn resistance to the authorities created a sensation throughout the country, has withdrawn from the Orthodox Church. The Holy Synod announces to-day that he has been unfrocked.

## CONGRESS IN SESSION IN PERU.

Lima, Dec. 14.—The Peruvian Congress met in extraordinary session this afternoon to sanction the Chile Railroad and the commercial treaty between Peru and Germany, as well as to authorize the issue of a government loan and to settle other urgent matters.

## MRS. ASQUITH TALKS TO LONDON UNEMPLOYED

Wife of Premier Explains to Them the Philosophy of Their Situation.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—Mrs. Asquith, wife of the Premier, seized the occasion to visit this week the Church Army Labor Relief depot and to express her views on labor in its relation to unemployment. She said that the solution of the problem of the unemployed could not be found in tariff reform or in any system of that sort. There is no way to do it, she declared, except by love, and there is no other way of serving God except by serving fellow creatures.

Regarding different causes of unemployment, she divided them between sickness and want of character; both affected the sick as well as the poor, but the poor were the greater sufferers from it.

At Mrs. Asquith's request several workers gave their experiences as to the causes of their unemployment as they understood them. One old fellow promptly replied, "Gray hairs." This evoked the remark from Mrs. Asquith, "Alas! that is sometimes so." Another laborer answered, "No sympathy."

Another said in his case it was due to the undercutting of female labor through the introduction of labor saving machines. Another declared it was through slackness of trade. Yet another said he met sympathy from both the rich and the poor. Mrs. Asquith replied: "I think the poor are very sympathetic to the poor. They help each other more than the rich help the poor."

One old man, who said he was a stone Sawyer, couldn't get a job through the introduction of machinery. Mrs. Asquith said: "You are a sufferer in the transition stage. When trains first came into use there was a most awful row and an outcry that they were doing away with the coach trade, and during that miserable transition stage undoubtedly many were thrown out of work, but now railways employ millions of men. Apart from the hardship of the transition stage, I rather think machinery is really a blessing in disguise." A philosophic rejoinder which paupers hardly appreciated.

## GENEROSITY SHOWN SARTO!

### Pope's Brother Gets \$35 for Faithful Postal Service.

Turin, Dec. 14.—The Pope's brother, Angelo Sarto, was yesterday awarded the sum of \$35 by the Italian Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in recognition of his long and faithful services to the postal department.

Angelo Sarto, who is postmaster at Grange, in the Province of Mantua, a few days ago requested an increase in his salary; which amounts to 50 cents a day. He asked the Deputy for his district to use his influence in the matter, and the Deputy took the Pope's brother, who is over seventy-six years of age, to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, to whom he made the application personally. It was favorably received, and to-day's compensatory grant of \$35 is the outcome of his visit.

## BOURSE OUTLOOK GLOOMY

### Lower Prices Recorded in Every Department—Monetary Crisis.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
Paris, Dec. 14.—The outlook on the Bourse is very gloomy, with falls in French rentes and in Russian and Balkan securities. In every department lower prices are recorded, and a general air of depression prevails.

Moreover, a monetary crisis is feared that this may be followed by an economic crisis.

## WOLVES DEVOUR 4 PERSONS

### Famished Animals Cause Terror in Portugal—100 Killed.

Lisbon, Dec. 14.—Famished wolves yesterday devoured four persons in the neighborhood of a village in the Province of Beira. Large packs of the starving animals have come down from the gorges of the Serra da Estrela, whence they have been driven owing to the deep snows, and they are causing terror in the low country. They attack lonely farms at night, while persons travelling alone along the roads are in constant danger.

A great hunt was organized yesterday by the country inhabitants in the Province of Beira. More than 200 men participated and they succeeded in rounding up and killing over 100 wolves, but eight of the hunters were badly bitten.

## FIRST OF SOCIALIST LORDS

### Earl Russell Aims at the Nationalization of Land.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—By openly joining the Fabian Society Earl Russell has declared himself a Socialist and has achieved the distinction of being the first Socialist member of the House of Lords, which hitherto has been exclusively anti-democratic. Politicians are deeply interested in the Lords' views of Earl Russell's declaration. Replying to an inquiry as to why he endorsed the principles of Socialism, Earl Russell said:

"My reason is simply general agreement with the Socialist idea of placing the control of industry and the means of production in the hands of society for the benefit of the masses, and in this connection I attach special importance to the nationalization of land."

Earl Russell is second holder of the title, which was created in 1861 for his grandfather, Lord John Russell, of Reform Bill fame. Earl Russell was born in 1865, and succeeded his grandfather thirteen years later, his father having died two years before. He is a landowner and a barrister who occasionally practises. He has qualified as an electrical engineer and runs a business near Maidenhead.

## WOOD WORN BY WOMEN

British Substitute for Silk Is Just Plain Pulp.

### PURE ARTICLE IS RARE

Necessity for Substitution Arose from Enormous and Constantly Growing Demand.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)  
London, Dec. 14.—A leading West End costumer has been unbending in his mind and giving away secrets that have saddened many feminine hearts. It was quite pleasant to tell his English lady patrons that "English women of all classes have dressed better and more attractively this year than ever before," and it was glad news to know that this was due to the fact that "the prices of silk blouses, ribbons and the lighter grades of taffetas, foulards, crepe de Chine and mull, so much favored for summer wear, have fallen to a figure that tempts even the slenderest purse."

But it was a distinctly unkind cut to tell the fair wearers that "they did not realize that these so-called silken fripperies with which they so gleefully adorn themselves to gladden masculine eyes—and even more to rival one another—are really made from wood pulp and haven't even the remotest connection with the silkworm or the mill-berry leaf."

Manufacturers in England and on the Continent have been experimenting with wood pulp fibre as a substitute for the product of the silkworm for the last three years, but it was only last winter that they finally succeeded in overcoming all the drawbacks to its use.

### Big Firms Engaged.

There are now half a dozen big firms engaged in the manufacture of all kinds of "silk" goods from wood pulp fibre, including laces, trimmings and stockings. One of these firms employs 1,000 hands, and turns out 23,000 pounds of yarn a week. The output of this plant, however, is only a small part of the artificial product consumed by the manufacturers of the different commodities in which it is used.

The necessity for the substitution grew naturally out of the enormous and constantly growing demand for silk materials. There was a time when a woman got a black silk dress and wore it for years, and only people of means possessed this one silk dress. But now, especially in summer time, almost every other woman who comes along is wearing a "silk" frock of some sort, or at least a "silk" blouse. The sadly overworked silkworm has not been able to keep pace with this increasing demand. Moreover, the cry was not only for more silk, but for cheaper silk as well. Even the men entered the field with a growing demand for silk hose and underwear.

The natural solution, of course, was adulteration. As a consequence, there is now no such thing as absolutely pure silk on the market, while every manufacturer knows it is a physical impossibility to dye black silks without adding some weight to the fabric. It is also impossible to detect the real quality of silk in a garment, the only way to acquire this knowledge being to submit it to a chemical analysis. Women buy from style and color, without knowledge of the quality. There isn't one who can tell the difference between two different pieces of silk on a counter, though one piece may be worth two shillings a yard more than the other. This fact made it more easy for the manufacturer to find a substitute for silk—something that would look like silk, glisten like silk, feel like silk, and perhaps not be silk at all. The chief trouble with the wood fibre in the beginning was that when it was wet it turned back to a pulp and parted readily under tension.

But comprehensive experiments were undertaken, and this difficulty was so far overcome that now the artificial silk is introduced into wash cottons as silk stripes or figures, and washes very well. When you meet a beautiful woman nowadays who is beautifully gowned with shimmering silks it will require no serious stretch of the imagination to think of her as being (as dead persons are) incased in wood.

And now more than ever are the good ladies convinced that man was ever an unfeeling brute.

## AITKEN, SON & Co

BROADWAY, Corner 18th St.

FIFTH AVENUE, Corner 39th St.

## WOMEN'S NECKWEAR

Latest novelties in Jabots and Stock with Jabots, ranging in price from \$5.00 to \$20.00.

Floral Chiffon and Beaded Scarfs, \$8.00 to \$40.00

Hand Embroidered Net Batiste and Satin Dutch Collars, with jabots attached, \$7.50 to \$20.00

## HANDKERCHIEFS

Sheer Linen Handkerchiefs, hand embroidered design in corner, 25c to \$20.00. Glove Handkerchiefs, sheer linen, hand embroidered, hem-stitched or scalloped, also Armenian lace edge, 25c to \$4.50. Ladies' Hand Embroidered Initial Handkerchiefs, box of six, \$1.50 to \$3.00. Men's Hand Embroidered Initial Handkerchiefs, box of six, \$1.50 to \$4.50. Lace Handkerchiefs in Du-chesse or point lace, from \$7.50 to \$80.00.